Resolution

Ensure Implementation of Recommendations for Minority Development Programmes

This 21st Congress of the CPI(M) demands that the recommendations of the various committees that have studied the condition of the Muslim minority community be implemented without delay. These include the recommendations made by the Sacchar Committee and the Ranganath Mishra Commission, and, more recently, the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee headed by Professor Kundu.

The Modi Government has declared that the 15-point programme to take forward the recommendations of the Sacchar Committee, which was appointed by the previous Government, will be continued. No action, however, followed. On the contrary, communal violence against Muslim communities, depriving them of the right to housing, as in Gujarat, and provocative and objectionable statements, including calls to deny Muslims the right to vote, have made minorities even more insecure.

In the 2015-6 Budget, the allocation for development projects for minority communities constitutes an abysmal 0.23 per cent of the total allocations. This paltry amount makes a mockery of the democratic requirement that urgent steps be taken to address the serious problems of the Muslim minority that were exposed by the Sacchar Committee. These include problems of poverty, educational and social backwardness, and social and economic discrimination.

The post-Sacchar Evaluation Committee set up in 2013 under the chairmanship of Professor Kundu submitted its report to the Government in October 2014. The report shows that there has been little or no improvement. Recruitment of Muslims in the Central Government sector stagnated at around 8 per cent of the total. Priority lending by financial institutions, a pressing need, remained unsatisfactory. While lending from public-sector financial institutions to the minorities increased to 16 per cent of the total, Muslims and Buddhists (the latter are mainly Scheduled Caste), who constitute the larger minority communities, received less than half of the funds available.

Even as school-enrolment levels of both Muslim boys and girls increased, the drop-out rate among them remained high and unchanged. Scholarship reach has, however, increased.

One of the most important programmes suggested by the Sacchar Committee was the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP), which was to be undertaken in 90 districts of the country that were identified as being "minority concentrated." According to an earlier review of the Standing Committee of Parliament, the UPA Government failed utterly to take this proposal forward. In 2012, plans had been finalised for only 28 districts. Less than 50 per cent of the targets, including

housing targets, were met. As a consequence of the low level of allocations, this important Programme has virtually been shelved.

The Kundu Committee also pointed out the exclusion of Muslims from OBC lists; such exclusion deprives Muslim OBCs of reservations recommended by the Ranganath Mishra Commission. The former Left Front Government in West Bengal was the first to conduct the required study and ensure inclusion in the list of more than 75 per cent of all Muslims, who had been identified as OBC in the study. In contrast, the present Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra has shamefully withdrawn all reservations for Muslims.

The 21st Congress of the CPI(M) demands:

1. that a Minority Sub-Plan be put in place to ensure that funds commensurate with their share in the population are made available for the all-round development of minorities; and

2. that the recommendations of the Kundu Committee and the Ranganath Mishra Commission including on the issue of reservations for minority communities be accepted and implemented. The recommendation of Sacchar Committee to establish an Equal Opportunity Commission be implemented.

3. that an Prevention of Communal Violence Bill be tabled in Parliament, while taking into account federal concerns.

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